

ER 11-9464/a

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Reverend Peter M. Kreta, Dean  
Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic  
Church of North America  
330 Shaw Avenue  
McKeesport, Pennsylvania

Dear Reverend Kreta:

On behalf of Mr. Dulles, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of 25 November and the enclosed copy of your letter to President Eisenhower requesting that he visit the Oecumenical Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Istanbul.

This is a matter which does not fall within the purview of the Central Intelligence Agency. However, your courtesy in writing to us about this is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

*[Redacted signature]*  
Executive Officer

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STAT O/DCI *[Redacted]* bak(30 Nov. 59)

Distribution:

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ARCHPRIEST PETER M. KRETA  
330 SHAW AVENUE  
MCKEESPORT, PA.  
TEL. ORCHARD 2-3444

November 25, 1959

Hon. Allen W. Dulles  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Director  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

If you are sympathetic to what we are requesting in the enclosed, please, help. We need it.

Thank you, sir. God bless you.

Respectfully

*Peter M. Kreta*

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# Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of North America

DEANERY OF PITTSBURGH

STAT

DEAN  
VERY REV. PETER M. KRETA  
330 SHAW AVENUE  
McKEESPORT, PA.  
PHONE: OR 2-3444

ASSISTANT TO DEAN  
REV. NICHOLAS FEDETZ



November 25, 1959

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We understand that on your overseas trip you are to visit Italy and Turkey. It has been publicized that while in Italy you are to visit Pope John XXIII, Head of the Roman Catholic Church.

To our deep regret we have seen no mention of a visit to the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church whose headquarters are in Istanbul. You know the dignitary; he is Patriarch Athanagoras, formerly Head of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

The clergy of the Pittsburgh Deanery at a meeting held Tuesday, November 24, in the Russian Orthodox Center, McKeesport, Pennsylvania, unanimously asked that you be informed of the need for such a visit. Over a hundred million of the Eastern Orthodox are behind the Iron Curtain wanting to and trying to worship God and do so under duress. As you well know, the regime is definitely anti-God and anti-religion.

These over a hundred million Eastern Orthodox need to know that the Free World, represented by the President of the United States, sympathizes with them, prays for them, encourages them and is willing to assist them in their desire to serve and glorify God as their fathers and forefathers did.

In our estimation, no other kind of political or humanitarian propaganda could do as much to strengthen the bonds between the Russians and with the other Slavic peoples and the United States. We humbly plead with you, if humanly possible, to make such a visit. It means so much to the world in its desires for peace and understanding.

Humbly and respectfully yours,

*Very Rev. Peter M. Kreta*

The Very Reverend Peter M. Kreta  
Dean

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